

**UNITED
NATIONS****IRAN - IRAQ CONFLICT : CHEMICAL WARFARE****Security Council**Distr.
GENERALS/17911
12 March 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE MISSION DISPATCHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO
INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE
CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND IRAQ****Note by the Secretary-General**

1. In March 1984, at the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and after consultations with the Government of Iraq, the Secretary-General appointed a mission of specialists to investigate Iran's allegations that chemical weapons were being used by Iraq. The report of the specialists was transmitted to the Security Council on 26 March 1984 (S/16433). On 29 June 1984 the Secretary-General appealed to both Governments to undertake to abide by the terms of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and received a positive response from Iran. In April 1985, on the request of the Government of Iran, the Secretary-General requested the medical specialist of the mission to examine Iranian patients hospitalized in Europe, allegedly as a result of the use of such weapons, and his report was transmitted to the Security Council on 24 April 1985 (S/17127).

2. In March 1985 the Secretary-General presented to the Governments of Iran and Iraq an eight-point plan designed to attain a comprehensive settlement of the conflict between the two States. This plan, which, *inter alia*, addressed the issue of ending the use of chemical weapons, was discussed by the Secretary-General with the two Governments during his visits to Tehran and Baghdad in April 1985, on which he reported to the Security Council (S/17097). Regrettably, despite continuing efforts, no further movement on the plan's proposals has materialized.

3. Following these events, the Secretary-General was requested by the President of the Security Council on 26 April 1985 to examine the feasibility of establishing arrangements to conduct prompt investigation of any further allegations of the use of chemical weapons. In response the Secretary-General informed the President of the Council on 14 May 1985 that he had decided to utilize the team of specialists who conducted the original investigation in March 1984, should the need for any further such investigation unfortunately arise. Further allegations by Iran 1/ followed which were rejected by Iraq, 2/ but at that stage a new investigation was not considered to be warranted.

Pag 2

4. On 9 February 1986, Iran began an offensive into Iraqi territory. The Secretary-General, in a statement on 11 February, urged that concerted and determined efforts be made, on the basis of his eight-point proposals, to end the war. As the combat escalated, however, Iran alleged the renewed use of chemical weapons by Iraq, 3/ which again denied this 4/ and, in turn, accused Iran of using such weapons. 5/ On 12 February and subsequently, while reiterating its allegations, the Government of Iran requested the dispatch of an investigation mission to the area. 6/ This distressing situation was developing in an alarming direction with implied warnings by Iran that it was considering the use of chemical weapons in retaliation unless the United Nations could take effective measures to end their use, stating that "on the basis of the 1925 Geneva Protocol the non-use of chemical weapons is unconditional". 7/

5. On 14 February 1986 the Security Council met in consultations on the request of the Secretary-General, who reported on developments and immediately after issued a statement calling for a cessation of hostilities in order to facilitate a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict. The statement pointed out that a cessation of hostilities would also make possible an investigation in the war zone where chemical weapons were alleged to have been used. The members of the Council expressed their support for the Secretary-General's approach. A number of them also urged that he dispatch an investigation mission at the earliest opportunity. Since a formal convening of the Council on the situation had been requested, the Secretary-General considered it advisable that a mission should be dispatched to the area after the Council had concluded its deliberations, and informed the Governments of Iran and Iraq accordingly.

6. On 24 February 1986, the Security Council adopted resolution 582 (1986), which deplored the initial acts which had given rise to the conflict, its continuation and its escalation, in particular the use of chemical weapons contrary to obligations under the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The resolution also called for an immediate cease-fire, a cessation of all hostilities, the withdrawal of all forces to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay, a comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war, and the submission by both parties of all aspects of the conflict to mediation or to any other means of peaceful settlement of disputes. Further, it requested the Secretary-General to continue his ongoing efforts to assist the two parties to give effect to the resolution. Also, it called on all other States to exercise the utmost restraint and to refrain from any act which might lead to a further escalation and widening of the conflict.

7. On 25 February 1986 the Iranian Government, in a statement on the resolution, stated inter alia that it was "a positive step towards the condemnation of Iraq as the aggressor and a just conclusion to the war". It further stated that Iran was prepared to co-operate with the Secretary-General and was "fully ready to co-operate towards the prevention of the expansion of the war and the involvement of other countries therein". It also commented that "the Security Council was, this time, under the obligation to strongly condemn Iraq by name for its repeated and large-scale use of chemical weapons" (S/17864).

8. On 5 March 1986 the Iraqi Government, in a letter to the Secretary-General presenting its position on resolution 582 (1986), declared, inter alia, that the

resolution "contains essential elements that illustrate the basic principles for the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts" and that "if the Iranian Government undertakes to accept the resolution formally and makes an effort to implement it unconditionally and in good faith, Iraq is ready to co-operate with the Security Council and with you in order also to implement it in good faith" on the basis of certain conditions, primarily that "the resolution represents a comprehensive and indivisible approach to settling the conflict. Therefore, it must constitute a globally and comprehensively applicable practical framework within which the elements of the settlement interconnect, at all stages, according to an established timetable, the implementation of each stage being a guarantee that the next stage will also be implemented." (S/17897)

9. Meanwhile, immediately upon the adoption by the Council of its resolution 582 (1986) on 24 February 1986, the Secretary-General gave instructions for the mission to assemble in Vienna and proceed without further delay to Iran. At the same time he reiterated to the Government of Iraq his readiness to instruct the mission to visit Iraq also, to investigate Iraq's allegations in this issue should the Government so request while the mission was still in the area. The position taken by the Government of Iraq was that this matter already had been addressed in Security Council resolution 582 (1986) and that any further moves should, in compliance with that resolution, focus on securing a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and should not deal separately with its "secondary" aspects.

10 The four specialists who constituted the mission, and who had conducted the original investigations in March 1984, are:

Dr. Gustav Andersson, Ph.D
Head, Analytical Chemistry Section
National Defence Research Institute
Umea, Sweden

Dr. Manuel Domínguez
Colonel, Army Medical Corps and specialist in atomic,
biological and chemical weapons injuries
Professor of Preventive Medicine
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Madrid, Spain

Dr. Peter Dunn, A.M., D.Sc., B.Sc. (Hons), FRACI
Superintendent Scientist
Materials Research Laboratories
Defence Science and Technology Organization
Department of Defence
Melbourne, Australia

Oberst. Ulrich Imobersteg, Dr. phil.chem.
Former Chief, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Weapons
Defence,
Ministry of Defence
Berne, Switzerland

Pag 4

Colon l Imobersteg was unable, due to a family emergency, to travel with th mission in Iran, but joined in the evaluation of the findings of his colleagues when they reached Switzerland to prepare the mission's report.

11. The work of the mission was co-ordinated by Mr. Iqbal Riza, Director in the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs, who facilitated its organization and ensured liaison with the competent authorities. He was assisted by Mr. Sylvanus Tiewul, Senior Officer in the same Office. The mission spent four days in Iran, and the specialists submitted a joint report to the Secretary-General on 7 March 1986.

12. The Secretary-General wishes to place on record his deep appreciation to th memb rs of the mission for the highly dedicated and efficient manner in which they completed their assignment, in spite of constraints in resources and time, and under strenuous and even dangerous conditions. He also wishes to express his appreciation to the Governments of Australia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland for making available the services of these eminent scientists and the facilities of their laboratories.

13. In transmitting the report of the specialists (annexed) to the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to unequivocally emphasize once again that his overriding motivation is to pursue every avenue to promote an end to this tragic conflict. While urging immediate compliance by the parties concerned with Security Council resolution 582 (1986), he considers that, until this is achiev d, it is also incumbent upon him, in accordance with internationally accepted humanitarian principles, to minimize the suffering caused by war on civilians and neutral parties and on the combatants themselves.

14. In the circumstances, the Secretary-General cannot but note with regret that the specialists have confirmed the use of chemical weapons by Iraqi forces against Iranian forces in the course of the present Iranian offensive into Iraqi territory. The Secretary-General repeatedly has declared that he strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons wherever and whenever this may occur. In the present instance such weapons have been used in violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 against Iranian forces, in the Iran/Iraq conflict.

15. The Secretary-General remains convinced that both international security and humanitarian concerns can ultimately be met only by the termination of this ruinous conflict through a comprehensive settlement. He once again expresses his readiness to assist in all endeavours to that end, and appeals to the Governments of Iran and Iraq to respond to the efforts of the United Nations to bring to their peoples the peace that will enable them to deploy their human and material resources for the strengthening and development of their countries. The Secretary-General also expresses his earnest hope that other States will also co-operate in international efforts to open the way towards the restoration of peace between Iran and Iraq on the basis of justice and honour.



**UNITED
NATIONS**

Security Council

Distr
GENERAL

S/17932
21 March 1986

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ARABIC, CHINESE, ENGLISH,
FRENCH, RUSSIAN, SPANISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 2667th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 March 1986, in connection with the consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Iran and Iraq", the President of the Security Council made the following statement:

"On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I am authorized to make the following declaration:

'The members of the Security Council, seized with the continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq, have considered the report of the mission of specialists dispatched by the Secretary-General to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between th Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq (S/17911 and Add.1).

'Profoundly concerned by the unanimous conclusion of the specialists that chemical weapons on many occasions have been used by Iraqi forces against Iranian forces, most recently in the course of the present Iranian offensive into Iraqi territory, the members of the Council strongly condemn this continued use of chemical weapons in clear violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which prohibits the use in war of chemical weapons.

'They recall the statements by the President of the Security Council of 30 March 1984 (S/16454) and 25 April 1985 (S/17130), and demand again that the provisions of the Geneva Protocol be strictly observed.

'At the same time the members of the Council condemn the prolongation of the conflict which continues to take a heavy toll of human lives and to cause considerable material damage as well as to endanger peace and security in the region.

'They express concern over the risk of an extension of the conflict to other States in the region and call upon the two sides to respect the territorial integrity of all States, including those that are not parties to the hostilities.

'The members of the Council reaffirm resolution 582 (1986) of the Security Council and note that the Government of Iraq has expressed its willingness to heed the call for the immediate cessation of hostilities. They stress the urgent need for full compliance by both parties with this resolution, which would open the way for a prompt, comprehensive, just and honourable settlement of the conflict.

'The members of the Council note that both parties have declared themselves ready to co-operate with the Secretary-General in his ongoing efforts to restore peace to the peoples of Iran and Iraq, and express their support for th se efforts.'